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REMARKS

Claims 23-28 and 31-33 are pending. Claims 24, 28, 31, and 33 have been amended. Claims 23, 27, and 32 have been canceled. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 23-28 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,621,547.

A terminal disclaimer is being concurrently filed with this Response to Final Office Action. Accordingly, Applicant requests withdrawal of the double patenting rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 24-26, 28, 31, and 33 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 24, 28, 31, and 33 have been amended into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 24, 28, 31, and 33 are now allowable. Claims 25-26 are dependent upon Claim 24 and contain additional limitations that further distinguish them from the cited references. Thus, Claims 25-26 are allowable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as provided above with respect to Claim 24.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant submit that all pending Claims 24-26, 28, 31, and 33 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicant's Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

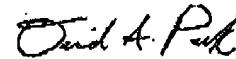
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents on the date stated below.

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